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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Prime Minister Gandhi is planning to delay the withdrawal of Indian troops from Pakistani territory--provided for in the Simla Agreement--to counter President Bhutto's failure to extend recognition to Bangladesh.

Bhutto has refused to recognize Bangladesh until he has had a chance to meet with Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman; Mujib insists recognition must come first. For domestic political reasons and because of Pakistani sensitivity to China's views on Bangladesh, Bhutto would find it difficult to give in to Indian-Bengali pressure. Indian and Pakistani delegations are meeting now in New Delhi in an attempt to reconcile their differences but, unless there is some face-saving formula found for Islamabad, Bhutto may decide that his interests are best served by resisting the Indian pressure.

Mrs. Gandhi, according to the US Embassy in New Delhi, genuinely believes that Pakistan has reneged on the "spirit of Simla" by attempting to involve third parties, such as the UN in resolving bilateral problems and by refusing to recognize the regime in Dacca. Since, as she probably sees it, she has gotten nothing from Pakistan, she is loath to appear foolish in the eyes of her countrymen by withdrawing her troops. Mrs. Gandhi may well conclude that her interests are best served by cutting her losses and suspending implementation of the Simla Agreement.

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NOTE

SOMALIA: President Siad is continuing to eliminate the opposition in the government hierarchy.

Siad has detained General Samantar, his chief rival on the ruling council, who serves as both army commander and defense minister. Samantar, who has been out of sight during the past few days, has long been suspected by Siad of plotting. Siad reportedly intends to give his son-in-law, who heads the security service, most of Samantar's duties. This week Siad also purged over 100 middle- and high-ranking police and army officers. Siad has been able to keep his opposition generally off balance during his nearly three years in power, but these recent measures must be dangerously close to provoking a reaction from tribal and other remaining opposition forces.

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